

# Torrance in Quick Coup for Merger with Lawndale

## Charges Fly Over Naming of New Planning Officials Here

### Act Fast to Stall Others

In a coup to cut other cities out of competition, Torrance acted last night to annex a portion of Lawndale.

Under a "secret" plan, both the Planning Commission and City Council last night were to approve the boundary description of the area considered for the merger. The description is to be filed today with the County Boundary Commission.

**Set Boundary**

The area eyed for annexation to Torrance is bounded on the north by Compton Blvd. the west by Prairie Ave., the east by Van Ness Ave. and on the south by the city limits at Redondo Beach Blvd.

Not included at this time, will be annexation of El Camino College and the Alondra Park golf course.

Both councilmen and commissioners acted hastily on the merger of approximately one and one-half square miles of territory in order to forestall annexation of the area to Hawthorne or Gardena.

**Corridor Annex**

The section under consideration contains approximately 800 homes and commercial property. It will be connected to Torrance by a corridor, approximately 300 feet wide.

If the boundaries are approved, petitions will have to be circulated by the residents. If owners of 51 per cent of the property value sign the petitions, a public hearing and election will be called.

While the procedures are under way, no other cities can act on competitive annexation.

### Airport Policy Criticized

Objection to a recent policy decision which will prohibit future installation of instrument guidance system at Torrance Municipal Airport was filed with the City Council this week.

J. B. Franks of 26003 Crest Road, an aircraft engineer, describes the abandonment of the approach strip, necessary for full instrument landings, as short sighted in view of potential development of the airport.

He said that Torrance's field faces a good source of revenue from traffic which will be lapping over from other airports due to abandonment or congestion at Los Angeles International.

Franks suggested that the recent policy decision receive further study before the city commits itself.

The council made the decision two weeks ago, when it granted permission to a firm to use land in the 1000-foot wide approach zone to be developed with industrial buildings.

### PUC to Rule on Water Co.

A finding in the rate case involving Narbonne Ranch Water Co. No. 2, will be made in about 30 days, after Examiner Grant Sypers ended Public Utilities Commission hearings.

The hearing was called to determine if the private firm had improved its distribution system since it was awarded a rate increase.

The company serves parts of Lomita and Torrance where action has been initiated to annex to County Water District No. 13.

Residents who testified at three hearings called by the PUC, asserted that the area is suffering from low water pressure.

A. E. Cook, manager of the firm, testified that funds have been available only to make emergency repairs to the distribution system, and that revenues were insufficient to overhaul the entire system.

### Permit Issued for Montgomery High Additions

A building permit for \$275,000 in classroom additions, was taken out by Bishop Montgomery High School, 5430 Torrance Blvd., Monday.

More than \$300,000 worth of permits were issued on the first business day in March. Total valuation of the 201 building permits issued in February amounted to \$1,609,231, compared with \$1,570,736 during the same month in 1958.



The Largest Circulating Newspaper between Los Angeles and Long Beach

## TORRANCE PRESS

1406 CRAVENS AVE.—FA 8-2345

10c PER COPY

VOL. X

1 • 2 •

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 1959

NUMBER 91

### Attorney to Decide Fate of Members

Fate of two incumbents of the Planning Commission was up in the air today following a stormy battle over appointments Tuesday night.

After the City Council finished its verbal donnybrook, Commission President Bert Lynn was reappointed but two other members, Kenneth Uyeda and John Mulvihill, were apparently left out in the cold.

The battle broke out after Mayor Albert Isen nominated Lynn and Uyeda for reappointment to the commission which was cut from nine to seven members by an ordinance which went into effect Monday.

**Objects**

Councilman Nickolas Draie, who nominated Mulvihill, immediately objected that he and other "minority" members have no right to make nominations. He suggested that each councilman be allowed to nominate one commission member to serve during his own incumbency.

"I'm sick and tired of the same song and dance you're expounding," snapped Isen. "That would lead to a spoils system, and a system of creating puppets and shadows."

"I don't know what's fair about the mayor stacking all the commissions," retorted Draie angrily.

**Claims Fairness**

Isen insisted that the present procedure is democratic in that councilmen have the opportunity to vote on his nominations.

"When you were mayor you never asked me to make a nomination," Benstead accused Draie.

"That's a lie," Draie shouted back. But a few minutes later he apologized to Benstead, who accepted.

When it came to Uyeda's nomination, Councilmen Willy Blount, George Bradford and Draie opposed, and Benstead abstained, causing the appointment to fail.

City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier said he would make a ruling on whether Uyeda or Mulvihill are both automatically off the commission. If they are, this would leave only six members.

Lynn's appointment sailed through, with Bradford voting for him.

Blount said he did not oppose the candidates, but the method of selection.

**Another Clash**

Only a few minutes earlier, Councilman Robert Jahn had a tiff with Dick Floyd, an airport commissioner, who had charged the councilman was misinformed about releasing a statement about a rent hike at the airport.

Blount immediately rushed to Jahn's side.

"I'm sick and tired of individual councilmen being chastized by commissioners," he declared.

Jahn explained that he felt it his duty and prerogative to make reports to the public.

Floyd had charged at an airport commission meeting last week that Jahn had made a report to the council about an airport matter that was not factual.

### Police Arrest Burglary Pair in Gas Station

Two burglary suspects were captured inside a service station into which they had forced their way by breaking a window early Monday.

Collared inside the gas station at 2501 Sepulveda Blvd., were Robert Lee Turner, 24, of Compton, and a 17-year-old juvenile from Gardena.

The pair was arrested after Officers Charles Oates and Paul Singleton observed the shattered window pane and stopped to investigate.

Detectives said they believe a number of other burglaries will be cleared up with the arrests.

### Slate Tree Planting

Trees will be planted at six Torrance parks at 2 p.m. Saturday as the Torrance Recreation Department observes Arbor Day.

Members of the park staffs and neighborhood youngsters will participate in the planting rites.

Due to receive new trees are the El Nido, El Retiro, Sea-Aire, McMaster, Torrance and Walter Parks.

## Glenn Koger Acclaimed Torrance Man of Year

Glenn Koger, Vice-President and Manager of Rome Cable Corporation, was selected as Torrance's "Citizen of the Year" for 1958.

The symbolic Laughon-Whyte Memorial Award was presented to Koger as a highlight of the annual banquet of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, held before an overflow crowd of 500 last night in the Civic Auditorium.

Koger was honored for his all-around community leadership in 1958, which included: Harbor Area Chairmanship for the Community Chest Campaign, treasurer of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, Education Committee of the Chamber, vice-president of the Torrance Rotary Club, vice-chairman and newly elected board chairman of the Harbor Area Welfare Federation and co-Chairman of the Industrial Division of the YMCA Fund Drive.

Koger is a member of the Torrance Industries Tax Committee, a member of the Advisory Board of the Little Company of Mary Hospital, member of Vestry of St. Francis Episcopal Church and a member of the Board of Governors of the Welfare Federation.

Former winners of the Award annually selected in memory of two departed civic leaders, were Marvin M. Schwab (1913), Paul D. Loranger, (Deceased—1959), Dean L. Sears (1955), Sam Levy (1956) and Dr. Howard Wood (1957). Wood made the presentation.

Fred Brunner, chairman of the Chamber education committee, accepted the first annual president's award on behalf of the committee's work during the past year.

Guest speaker was Major General E. S. Ligon, Jr., the Air Force's top recruiting officer. He was presented with the symbolic key to the city by Mayor Albert Isen.

President Fred Mill congratulated members of the trophy-winning education committee on their accomplishments.

Members of the committee are Brunner, Dr. Robert J. Gant, W. J. Hanson, Lysie R. Albro, Dr. Warren Hamilton, Glenn Koger, R. L. (Dick) Herbert, Ralph Morris, Don Cortum, D. O. R. Peter Bendorf, L. A. Schleissner, M.D., and L. Milton Isbell.

Sy Franks served as master of ceremonies for the event.

Service club presidents of 1958 were awarded permanent plaques under the Chamber "Community Service" program. Those honored included:

Sam Van Wagner, Jack Parker, Dave Tanner, Kenneth L. Anderson, Bob Bartz, Manning Roeder, Jack Phillips, Frank Hunter, Mrs. J. G. Louvier, Mrs. Don Wolf, Mrs. Clara Dougherty, John O. Schmidt, Mrs. Ruth Shrum, Dave Figueroa and Morris Lusk.

### Legion Hits Changes in Veteran Tax Law

Protest petitions against a bill which would restrict veterans' property tax exemptions are now being circulated by the Torrance post of the American Legion.

The measure, which was introduced in the State Senate, was blasted at a meeting Saturday by J. Rome Gateley, commander of Bert S. Crossland Post No. 170.

"Not only does it cut off veterans but it will prove a tremendous expense to the taxpayers," Gateley declared.

He said provisions of the bill will make veterans seeking their \$1000 tax exemptions file affidavits in which they must list all their personal and business property and even their cash-in value of insurance policies and equity in any retirement system in which they are beneficiaries.

The commander said that the exemptions currently save qualified veterans here approximately \$60 per year.

"This law will permit the state to pry into veterans' private affairs," he charged.

He said the bill is designed to freeze a lot of veterans out of claiming exemptions if their total value exceeds the \$10,000 limit of property.

Gateley claims that to enforce the proposed restrictions, the state will have to add numerous employees, nullifying any saving that is made.

Petitions may be signed daily starting at noon at the Torrance Legion hall, 1109 Border Ave. Gateley will also address a meeting of the Southwest Park Improvement Association today.

The petitions will be forwarded to State Senator Richard Richards and Assemblyman Vincent Thomas this week-end.



GLENN KOGER

President Fred Mill congratulated members of the trophy-winning education committee on their accomplishments.

Members of the committee are Brunner, Dr. Robert J. Gant, W. J. Hanson, Lysie R. Albro, Dr. Warren Hamilton, Glenn Koger, R. L. (Dick) Herbert, Ralph Morris, Don Cortum, D. O. R. Peter Bendorf, L. A. Schleissner, M.D., and L. Milton Isbell.

Sy Franks served as master of ceremonies for the event.

Service club presidents of 1958 were awarded permanent plaques under the Chamber "Community Service" program. Those honored included:

Sam Van Wagner, Jack Parker, Dave Tanner, Kenneth L. Anderson, Bob Bartz, Manning Roeder, Jack Phillips, Frank Hunter, Mrs. J. G. Louvier, Mrs. Don Wolf, Mrs. Clara Dougherty, John O. Schmidt, Mrs. Ruth Shrum, Dave Figueroa and Morris Lusk.

### Children's Art Classes to Open

A new series of children's art classes will begin March 14 at the Arts and Crafts Center, 1511 Cravens Ave., according to the Torrance Recreation Department.

Miss Moni Gillett, noted area artist, will instruct the sessions at 9 and 10:30 a.m. for six successive Saturdays.

The early session is for youngsters from 6 through 9 years of age, while the latter is for those from 10 through 15 years of age.

There is a charge of \$5 for the classes. Register by calling the Recreation Dept., FA 8-4108, as the size of the classes is limited.

### See Bonus Offer in Today's Press

Spend a little, save a lot. The Torrance Press on page 20 of this edition features a special group of coupons entitling you to \$30 in merchandise, services and amusements for only \$1.

After paying a \$1 validating charge, residents can present the coupons at places of business for merchandise, entertainment and service. They may be presented at any time within 30 days.

This is a get-acquainted offer by the firms represented and an advance survey shows heavy interest in the plan.

### Nautical Gunman Sought

Police today hunted for two bandits who pistol-whipped a liquor store clerk Saturday night and robbed him of \$70.

One of the robbers was wearing a navy sailor suit, but no hat, while his accomplice was dressed in civilian togs.

William Randall Stuart, clerk in the store at 23739 Arlington Ave., told police that the bandit in the sailor suit pointed a .45 caliber pistol at him and cocked it.

He ordered the clerk to march into the rear storage room.

While Stuart walked to the rear, he was slugged on the head, presumably by the gun.

While he was on the floor, the robbers rifled the cash register and fled, he told police.

### SHS Gym Opened in Rites

South High officially opened its new 40,000 square foot gymnasium Monday in a special ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The new facility provides a gymnasium and separate shower and locker facilities for both boys and girls. It also includes three classrooms to be used for various phases of instruction. The gym was part of the second unit of buildings at South High. The gym and 12 classrooms formed the unit and were built at a cost of \$1,086,000.

Work now is underway on the third unit of buildings at the school, including a library, cafeteria, and additional classrooms. A fourth unit of work also is scheduled to allow enrollment of up to 3000 students.

Present enrollment includes ninth, 10th, and 11th grades, with 1340 students.

### Eye Changes in Sick Leave Act

Two changes in city employees' sick leave policies were recommended to the City Council by the Civil Service Commission this week.

One of them will allow employees to accumulate sick leave from the present 60 days to 120.

The other, backed by Jonathan Dunmyer, president of the employees' union, would make accumulated sick leave a part of an employee's severance pay whenever an employee either resigns or retires.

### Officials Join Elk's Dope Fight

Three Councilmen and a police department representative were authorized to accompany an Elks caravan to Sacramento Monday to present petitions for a tough dope peddler law.

Exalted Ruler Roger Holmes requested official accompaniment on behalf of the Torrance lodge, one of the original sponsors of the move to prescribe mandatory 30-year prison terms to narcotics pushers.

### LETTERS VS. LITTER

In close cooperation with the school faculty, staff, and administration, the newly formed Lettermen's Club at South High School has undertaken a Clean Campus Campaign.



FLAG RAISING—Raising of a Turkish flag in the Torrance civic center was one of the highlights of the Konya Day celebration here Saturday. Inspecting the flag are Mayor Albert Isen and Nejat Somnez, Turkish information officer. Press Photo

### Torrance Kicks Off Link with Turkish Sister City

Bonds of international friendship between Torrance and Konya, Turkey, were sealed Saturday when the People-to-People program was officially launched.

The Konya Day ceremonies were highlighted by the raising of the Turkish flag to the accompaniment of the country's national anthem.

Although Torrance as a city is in the infant stage, compared to Konya, which was founded before 1200 B.C., the Turkish town of 120,000 is "young in spirit," according to Nejat Somnez, Turkish information officer.

In the role of special ambassador to Torrance, he assured a luncheon audience that the people of Konya welcome the sister-city program.

Robert Ellis, chairman of the City-to-City Association, sponsors of the goodwill program, said he has received the names of 100 Konyans in all walks of life who would like to correspond with Torrance residents.

Another dignitary attending the rites was Madame Ismet Sanli, Turkish newspaper correspondent and one of the members of her nation's delegation to the United Nations at its founding. She later addressed the Executive Diner's Club.

Keys to the city were presented Somnez by Mayor Albert Isen. At the time a resolution passed by the State Legislature, commending the cities on their program, was presented.

Somnez said that the citizens of Konya had happily and speedily accepted the invitation to become Torrance's sister city.

He added that since a room in the Palms Restaurant was renamed the Konya Room, a club in Turkey was named after Torrance.

The Turkish official said there are no anti-American feelings in his country.

"Anything American is considered very good, even your rock 'n' roll," he remarked.

### Fourth Traffic Death of '59 Recorded Here

Torrance chalked up its fourth traffic fatality of the year with the death of a pedestrian struck down Feb. 25.

Warren Reynolds, 51, of 24405 Neece Ave., died Saturday in Harbor General Hospital of critical head and leg injuries received when struck by an auto on Hawthorne Blvd. near Pacific Coast Highway.

The auto was allegedly operated by Robert S. Johnson, 48, of Palos Verdes Estates.

Another pedestrian, Edward William Kuntz, 14, of 2618 W. 180th St., was knocked 20 feet when hit by a car in front of 2318 W. 179th St., police said.

Driver of the car was identified by officers as Dan Cunningham, 25, of 2406 W. 179th St., who was not held. The boy was taken to an emergency clinic with shock and bruises.

**Four Hurt**

Four persons were injured in a two-car collision at Hawthorne Blvd. and 190th St. Saturday night.

The collision occurred between the cars driven by Dewey Hampton, 30, of 4610 Delane, who was booked by police on suspicion of drunk driving, and Kenneth Ray Blonsky, 32, of 4627 Halston St.

Taken to Harbor General Hospital were Edna Alice Hampton, 28, and Harold Melvy, 21, of San Diego, passengers in Hampton's car, Jean Blonsky, 29, and Evelyn Carpenter, 49, passengers in the other car, were taken to another emergency hospital.

**Boy Struck**

A young boy suffered a skull fracture and bruises when he was struck by an auto at Crenshaw Blvd. and 236th place Monday.

Taken to Harbor General Hospital was Lyle T. Johnston, 8, of 24671 Pennsylvania Ave., Lomita, police reported. They said the car was driven by Renee Radinsky, 31, of San Pedro.

Heavy fog was blamed for an accident in which the car driven by Thurman Winfred Mitchell, 39, of 21302 Anza Ave., turned over on its side in front of 20323 Valerie St., officers reported.

Walter Charles Pratt, 62, of Inglewood, was arrested on suspicion of drunk driving after his car allegedly struck a parked car, rolled over a lawn and crashed through a concrete wall at 168th St. and Cranbrook Ave., police said.

He was taken to General Hospital with a scalp injury.



### Sentence Youth in Shooting

A cool and calm Colorado youth whose neglect to change his shoes caused his arrest, was sentenced to the custody of the California Youth Authority for the attack and shooting of a pretty South High School coed.

Superior Judge Joseph M. Malby sentenced Wilburn A. Henderson, 16, Monday, with the term to be fixed by the penal agency later.

Henderson was convicted in December of the shooting, attack and robbery of the Seaside Heights teenager and the pistol-whipping of a boy in her home last September.

Following the crime spree, Henderson drove to Hollywood Riviera, where he got a butch haircut, dyed his hair and changed his clothes, with the exception of his shoes.

The white buckskin footwear caught the attention of Charles Tolles, an alert Redondo Beach policeman, who spotted Henderson from the description of a police broadcast.

The young defendant said he had run away from his Colorado Springs home in his stepfather's auto. He said he had met the girl victim once while out here on a visit.

The girl recovered from the bullet fired into her side when she shouted for help.

### Burglars Hit Two Lodges

Two fraternal organizations became the victims of burglars over the weekend.

Detectives said that the thief either hid inside the Elks Hall, 1951 W. Carson St., at closing time Saturday, or picked a lock.

The burglar took \$60 from a cabinet safe inside the hall, all of it in coins.

A window was forced open to gain entry into the Moose Hall, 1744 W. Carson St., the same night.

Thieves ransacked offices, took the door off the liquor vault, broke into lockers and pried open a juke box.

They made off with \$150 in currency which was kept in the liquor storage room, and another \$4 from the cash register.

While on the job he quenched his thirst with a bottle of beer he found in the bar.

### School Employees Form New Union

Chartering of a union for non-certificated employees of the Torrance Unified School District was announced Tuesday by C. Charles Hogan, representative of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

He said that a majority of the 300 employees have voted in favor of the union, which requested that payroll deductions for dues be made by the district.

Hogan said that the Board of Education has adopted a policy giving employees a free choice of joining or not joining labor organizations and that employees status will not be prejudiced by joining.

The union leader said, however, that some principals allegedly have pressured employees not to join.

Hogan said that one of the programs to be pushed by the new Local 1101 will be to eliminate the five-step pay plan and substitute a three-step program.

Officers of the new local will be elected within 30 days he said.